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Public
Libraries
Plan

INSTITUTE OF GOVERNMENTAL
STUDIES LIBRARY

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UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

Public Libraries Plan

an Element of the Master Plan of the City of Los Angeles

Libraries Public LA
[LA Library dept]
City planning

prepared by the Department of City Planning and the Library Department



City of Los Angeles • Public Libraries Plan

this plan consists of Statement of Policy, Features of the Plan, and Public Library Facilities map.

Statement of Policy

Purpose and Use of the Plan

The Public Libraries Plan is an element of the Master Plan of the City of Los Angeles. The Plan is intended to serve as a general guide to concerned governmental agencies and interested citizens for the construction, maintenance, and operation of public library facilities in the City. It will assist in the formulation and/or revision of other Master Plan elements which are affected by these facilities. In addition, it provides information to the general public concerning the extent and location of needed and proposed public library facilities and their relation to and effect upon privately owned properties. The plan designates general, rather than precise, locations for the facilities involved.

Objectives of the Plan

- To continue superior library service as befits the high educational level of the Los Angeles citizens.
- To develop standards for library service distances, size of site and the number of parking spaces required for each type of library.
- To locate facilities necessary to conveniently serve present and future library users.
- To reconstruct a central library which will serve as a high volume public circulating library and a major research center for the City and the metropolitan region.
- To eliminate overlapping areas of library service.
- To continue library service in sparsely populated or geographically isolated City areas through the bookmobile system.

Standards and Criteria

Types of Libraries The Los Angeles Library System provides service from four classes of libraries. Each type provides the function of circulation for residents within an approximate two mile service radius from the facility. Further, the larger libraries provide the additional function of providing research material in greater depth and housing administrative offices.

- **Central Library** This library functions as the official depository for more than two million books, bound periodicals and other documents. All titles in the system are represented in the Central Library. Additionally, it is the administrative headquarters for the entire City library system.
- **Area Library** A proposed highly developed, departmentalized reference center with a half-million volume book collection to serve the entire San Fernando Valley.



Central Library provides hard to find materials

(Statement of Policy continued.)

- **Regional Library** Provides reference service and maintains a circulating book collection of approximately a quarter of a million volumes. This facility augments the materials and services available in the community libraries and contains library branch administrative offices.
- **Community Library** Serves patrons in an approximate two mile radius with general reading material from some twenty-five to fifty thousand volumes.



New Community Library

PUBLIC LIBRARY STANDARDS				
Type of Library	Maximum Service Area	Population Served (Thousands)	Minimum Acreage	Required Parking Spaces
CENTRAL	Entire City	2,800 to 3,600 ^(a)	5.15	(b)
AREA	San Fernando Valley	1,000 to 1,500	6.00	400
REGIONAL	Region ^(c)	300 to 350	1.25	75
COMMUNITY	2 Mi. Radius ^(d)	25 to 50	0.50 to 0.75	25 to 35
TRAVELING (BOOKMOBILE)	Varies	Varies	(e)	(f)

- (a) Los Angeles City Population July 1, 1967 2,800,000
1980 projection 3,600,000
- (b) To be determined by a feasibility study.
- (c) The city is divided into seven regions for operational purposes. (An eighth region is planned for the San Fernando Valley.)
- (d) Size determined by service needs of area.
- (e) Adequate space in privately owned or City owned buildings.
- (f) Temporary parking adjacent to distribution center.

Features of the Plan

Central Library

The Central Library, built in 1926, no longer has sufficient shelf, seating, work, or parking spaces to meet present user needs. In the spring of 1966, the Library Commission, aware of these deficiencies, authorized a detailed study of the improvements needed for the Central Library. The study has been completed and the plan includes a proposal for replacing the old facility with a modern and larger Central Library.

Branch Libraries

To more effectively serve library users throughout the City, a system of branch libraries has been developed. Community Libraries, designed to meet local needs, have been established throughout the City. Regional Branches augment the materials and services of the community branches, and an Area Library is planned to provide comprehensive reference service for several regions within the San Fernando Valley.

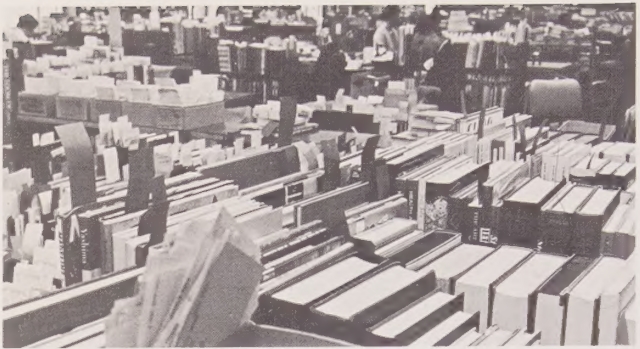
The branch system also operates bookmobiles to provide library services in sparsely populated or geographically isolated areas where it is impractical to provide full time facilities. There is presently one service building operated by the Department, which serves the entire library system.

The plan illustrates the following branch library facilities:

Type of Library	Existing Adequate	Existing to Be Enlarged or Replaced	Existing To Be Relocated	Pro-posed
AREA	0	0	0	1
REGIONAL	1	5	1	1
COMMUNITY	16	31	7	12
TOTAL	17	36	8	14



Branch library system includes mobile units



Central Library needs more space for books

History

In 1872, when six thousand persons constituted the total population of Los Angeles, a small group of public spirited citizens organized as the Los Angeles Library Association.

Public support was promptly expressed by the payment of annual membership fees and the donation of books and periodicals. Four small reading rooms were obtained, additional books purchased, and the City's first library was established.

In 1878, the Los Angeles Public Library was established and the City took possession of the books and facilities.

Financial support for the library system was provided in 1902 by an annual tax levy of four cents per \$100 of assessed valuation. This amount was increased in 1925 by a City Charter amendment to the present rate of seven cents, with the added proviso permitting retention of all monies acquired through the Department's own efforts.

Library extension delivery stations were established in answer to petitions from citizens in various communities. Petitioners provided quarters until such time as use of the facility justified its inclusion as an element of the branch library system. Many small collections established in this manner became permanent branch libraries while others, poorly located, were discontinued.

In 1910, with 16 extension delivery stations in operation and the need of permanent branch buildings indicated, a \$210,000 Carnegie Foundation gift made possible the building of six branch libraries.

As the City grew, the Main Library was moved four times to succeeding larger quarters. By 1921, with the need to serve a population of 576,000 persons, a bond issue of two and a half million dollars was approved by the voters with the stipulation that two million dollars be

used for a Central Library. The present structure was opened to the public in July 1926.

Bond issues of 1921 and 1925 provided funds for the construction of twenty-five branch libraries. Extension service supplementing the Main Library and branches was provided by library stations supplied with temporary book collections and operated on part-time schedules. This service was eventually replaced by the construction of new branch buildings and the inauguration of book-mobile service.



Early Branch Library

By the mid-1950's it had become obvious that the rapid growth of the City and a shortage of funds posed a serious threat to the Library Department's goal of providing service to all parts of Los Angeles. This situation was eased when a \$6,400,000 bond issue for the construction of branch libraries and a maintenance building was passed in 1957. Twenty-eight branches were constructed, fourteen in the San Fernando Valley.

The City's growth had necessitated a re-evaluation of the branch library system, even before the completion of the building program. A Master Plan of Public Libraries was prepared, and adopted in 1963. That plan proposed establishment of branch library facilities in new sections of the City, merging of several existing branches to sites more centrally located in their respective service areas, and enlargement of a number of sites to provide land for parking.

In August of 1964, the Board of Library Commissioners announced the completion of the expansion program funded by the 1957 bond issue. Available funds were not adequate to complete the implementation of the 1963 Library Plan. In the meantime, the Los Angeles Public Library had become the largest circulating public library in America and the City had continued to grow at a rapid rate, again necessitating re-evaluation of the library system. This plan proposes standards designed to increase the efficiency and service of the library system.



Public Library Facilities

City of Los Angeles • Public Libraries Plan
this plan consists of Statement of Policy, Features of the Plan, and this Map.

FACILITIES

central

branches

area

regional

community

service buildings

maintenance

EXISTING

adequate

inadequate*

PROPOSED

1 Van Norman

2 Sylmar

3 Porter

4 Mission Hills

5 Chatsworth

6 Granada Hills

7 Pacoima

8 Sunland-Tujunga

9 Northridge

10 Valley

11 La Tuna

12 Winnetka

13 Panorama City

14 Sun Valley

15 Canoga Park

16 Satcoy

17 Platt

18 West Valley

19 Van Nuys

20 Vanowen Park

21 Woodland Hills

22 Corbin

23 Encino-Tarzana

24 Hayvenhurst

25 Sherman Oaks

26 Studio City

27 North Hollywood

28 Eagle Rock

29 Los Feliz

30 Atwater

31 Arroyo Seco

32 West Hollywood

33 Hollywood

34 Cahuenga

35 Richard Henry Dana

36 El Sereno

37 John C. Fremont

38 Fairfax

39 Wilshire

40 Echo Park

41 Lincoln Heights

42 Palisades

43 Brentwood

44 Beverly Glen

45 Robertson

46 Hauser

47 Memorial

48 Pio Pico

49 Felipe De Neve

50 Central

51 Benjamin Franklin

52 Malabar

53 West Los Angeles

54 Palms Rancho Park

55 Baldwin Hills

56 Washington Irving

57 Jefferson

58 University

59 Maple

60 Robert Louis Stevenson

61 Venice

62 Mar Vista

63 Martin Luther King Jr.

64 Angeles Mesa

65 Vermont Square*

66 Junipero Serra

67 Vernon

68 Loyola Village

69 Westchester

70 Hyde Park

71 John Muir

72 Ascot

73 Mark Twain

74 Watts

75 Harbor Way

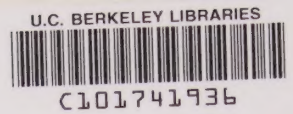
76 Wilmington

77 San Pedro

* to be relocated or enlarged



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photographs by Los Angeles Public Libraries Department
layout and design by graphics section, Department of City Planning

	ADOPTED
CITY PLANNING COMMISSION	5/16/68
BOARD OF LIBRARY COMMISSIONERS	6/12/68
CITY COUNCIL	11/4/68

for further information regarding this plan, please contact:

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